

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /108 W

-----039116 181114Z /11

R 180522Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI BY POUCH
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
UEHCR/USINT HAVANA 033
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0263

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PROP, ET, US
SUBJECT: CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S
JAN 12 STATEMENT

REF: (A) ADDIS ABABA 211 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS ABABA 212
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(NOTAL); (C) ADDIS ABABA 251

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN MEDIA CONTINUED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVER-
AGE OF REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S JAN 12 PRESS CONFER-
ENCE STATEMENT. UPON DEPARTURE FOR MADAGASCAR JAN 15,
DIRG MEMBER IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAJOR BERHANU
BAYEH NOTED "UNCALLED FOR STATEMENT BY PRES. CARTER

COULD HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES." EDITORIAL IN JAN 17 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED ETHIOPIAN HERALD ALSO STRONGLY CRITICIZED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND ALLEGED HE SEARCHING FOR MEANS TO SUPPORT MOGADISCIO REGIME TO INTENSIFY ITS AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA. ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOGADISCIO, EDITORIAL STATED THESE COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AFTER THE IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF SIAD BARRE'S TROOPS FROM ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

1. JAN 15 DEPARTURE OF MAJ. BERHANU BAYEH FOR MADAGASCAR OSTENSIBLY TO BRIEF LEADERS AND PEOPLE ON ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION AND TO EXPOSE THE LIES AND AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS OF MOGADISCIO REGIME, AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJ. BERHANU TO EXPAND ON JAN 14 MOFA REACTION TO PRES. CARTER STATEMENT. BERHANU EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT CARTER'S "SUPPORT" OF SOMALIA'S AGGRESSIVE STAND. HE SAID AMERICAN AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS ENCOURAGING SIAD BARRE REGIME TO WAGE FURTHER ANTI-ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGNS. NOTING THAT PRESIDENT'S UNCALLED FOR STATEMENT COULD HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, BERHANU SAID THAT CARTER WOULD DO WELL TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY ETHIOPIA'S STAND AND CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE AND POSITION ON THE ISSUE AT STAKE. BERHANU ALSO SAID ONE OF PURPOSES OF VISIT TO MADAGASCAR WOULD BE TO INFORM ITS LEADERS OF WELL-CONFIDENTIAL

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KNOWN FACT THAT "ETHIOPIA DOES NOT INTEND TO INVADE THE TERRITORY OF ANYONE."

2. JAN 17 ETHIOPIAN HERALD EDITORIAL REITERATED MUCH OF MOFA STATEMENT (REFTEL A), BUT ADDED THAT FOR CARTER TO SUGGEST NEGOTIATIONS BE HELD WHILE BARRE'S TROOPS REMAIN ON ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY IS TANTAMOUNT TO TELLING ETHIOPIA TO RECOGNIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MOGADISCIO'S AGGRESSION. EDITORIAL WENT ON, "CARTER'S INTENTIONS ARE CLEAR. HE IS SEARCHING FOR A MEANS TO SUPPORT THE REACTIONARY MOGADISCIO REGIME TO INTENSIFY ITS WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA ON WHOSE ENCOURAGEMENT IT WAS LAUNCHED LAST JULY." ARTICLE CRITICIZED BRITISH SUPPORT FOR US AS CUSTOMARY CONSPIRACY OF IMPERIALIST FORCES AGAINST REVOLUTIONS, AND CHARACTERIZED SHAH OF IRAN AND KING OF SAUDI ARABIA AS DESPOTS, WHO "HAVE A LOT TO DO AT HOME, INSTEAD OF BEING IN A STATE OF READINESS FOR UNWARRANTED INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS." (BERHANU BAYEH ALSO NOTED SIAD'S EFFORTS TO INVOLVE REACTIONARY SAUDI AND IRANIAN REGIMES MORE ACTIVELY IN SOMALIA'S AGGRESSION.) EDITORIAL CLEARLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY STATED ETHIOPIA'S POSITION ON NEGOTIATIONS.

TIATIONS WITH SOMALIA, I.E. THAT THEY COULD ONLY BE
CONSIDERED "AFTER THE IMMEDIATE REPEAT IMMEDIATE WITH-
DRAWAL OF THE SIAD BARRE CLIQUE'S TROOPS FROM ETHIOPIAN
TERRITORY. ANYTHING SHORT OF THIS COMPLETELY UNACCEPT-
ABLE TO ETHIOPIA." ETHIOPIA WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE
ITS LEGITIMATE RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE.

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 0263

3. OTHER MEDIA ITEMS PAST FEW DAYS WERE COVERAGE OF
LEBANESE NEWSPAPER AL KIFAH AL ARABI ARTICLE ALLEGING
THAT US PRESIDENT, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AND REACTIONARY
ARAB REGIMES HAVE AGREED TO STEP-UP THEIR ANTI-
ETHIOPIAN ACTIVITIES; SIGNED ARTICLE ACCUSING SHAH OF

IRAN AND REACTIONARY ARAB REGIMES OF STOKING FLAMES OF
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WAR, LARGELY BECAUSE SOMALIA'S INVASION BECOMING
RELIGIOUS-ORIENTED AND INCREASINGLY ASSUMING CHARACTER
OF A "JIHAD", AND STRAIGHT PROPAGANDA BROADCAST IN
AMHARIC AFTERNOON JAN 14 TITLED, "THE OPPRESSION BY
CAPITALISM OF DEMOCRACY AND THE AMERICAN MASSES."
LEBANESE ARTICLE STATED THAT WASHINGTON PLANS TO GIVE
LEADING ROLE IN ANTI-ETHIOPIA CAMPAIGN TO EGYPTI AND
SUDAN, AND THAT FORMER ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO YEMEN
ARAB REPUBLIC BEING CONSIDERED TO HEAD REACTIONARY
CAMP. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS ALSO TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE AGAINST ETHIOPIA. AMHARIC BROADCAST DE-
TAILED CURRENT FAILINGS OF CAPITALISM TO MEET ECONOMIC
AND EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF AMERICAN MASSES ALONG STANDARD
"PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST" LINES.

4. COMMENT: LEVEL OF ETHIOPIAN RHETORIC SIMILAR TO
THAT PRECEDING CLOSURE OF AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS HERE
LAST APRIL/MAY, BUT IT MUCH MORE PERSONALIZED AND
LESS IDEOLOGICAL. ALTHOUGH CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT
CARTER VERY STRONG, THEY LACKING BITTERNESS AND RAGE
USUALLY DIRECTED AT SIAD AND PREVIOUSLY AT SUDANESE
PRESIDENT NIMEIRY. IT APPEARS ETHIOPIANS STILL SERIOUS
ABOUT US POSITION VIS-A-VIS ETHIOPIAN/SOMALI CON-
FLICT AND DESIRE THAT US REMAIN AT LEAST NEUTRAL WHILE
OGADEN FIGHTING CONTINUES. ETHIOPIA UNDER NO ILLUSION
ABOUT US ATTITUDE TOWARD REVOLUTION AND SUPPORT IT
RECEIVING FROM "SOCIALIST" COUNTRIES, BUT ETHIOPIA
STILL HOPEFUL US WILL VIEW OAU AND UN PRINCIPLES AS
OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS AND THEREBY NOT LEND SUPPORT
TO SOMALIA'S CLEAR VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONALLY AC-
CEPTED PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE TRANSGRESSION OF BOR-
DERS. REITERATION BY MAJ. BERHANU OF ETHIOPIA'S POSI-
TION THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO INVADE ANYONE, PROBABLY
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ALSO REFLECTS, AT LEAST IN PART, EFFORTS BY US AND
OTHERS TO WARN ETHIOPIA ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF CROSSING
SOMALI FRONTIER.
MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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